हिमाचल प्रदेश में किन-किन स्थानों पर नये डाकघर खोले जाने की सिफारिश की थी और उनका सांसद-वार ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) संसद सदस्यों की सिफारिशों पर कहां-कहां डाकघर खोले गये हैं और संसद सदस्यों की सिफारिशों के बावजूद कहां-कहां डाकघर नहीं खोले जा सके हैं और इसके क्या कारण हैं?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम): (क) से (ग) जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Clubbing of profit earning and loss making Circles for the Private Sector

2389. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the idea of clubbing the profit earning circles with loss making circles, to be handled by private telecom companies, for providing basic telecom services, was mooted at any stage;

(b) if so, why it has not got reflected in the tender stipulations of the DOT for the basic services;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the absence of such a clubbing would give rise to possibilities that all loss making circles will be left for being handled by DOT alone; and

(e) whether such a course will be discriminatory to the DOT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) Various options were examined in this regard and it was found appropriate to invite bids separately for each Circle.

(d) and (e) According to Government's assessment at this time, such an eventuality is not likely to arise.

Complaints of Trans Yamuna Consumer Forum about dead Telephone

2390. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Trans Yamuna Consumers Forum President, Delhi has written a letter on behalf of the Forum to the Minister stating details of telephone numbers lying dead for long times and for not providing current in the new telephone connections despite installation of instruments for a long time; and

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken on the complaints/matters stated in the said letter; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Waiting List for Telephone in Punjab

2391. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections at Amritsar, Patiala, Jalandhar and Ludhiana disricts of Punjab, upto October, 1994;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government for providing new telephone connections from each exchange; and

(c) by when the telephone connections are likely to be provided to all the enlisted persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) District-wise waiting list as on 31.10.94 is given below:

1.	Amritsar	— 15601
2.	Patiala	— 10863
3.	Jallandhar	— 34508
4.	Ludhiana	— 65252

(b) and (c) New telephone exchanges are under installation at these places to provide telephone connections to the waiting persons. More than 70,000 new telephone connections are envisaged to be provided as per annual plan 1994-95 in various places in Punjab including the four districts mentioned in part (a), to reduce the backlog of waiting list.

The waiting list as on 31.10.94 in the four districts is likely to be cleared by March '96 subject to timely availability of equipment and other resources.

NSC/Kisan Vikas Patra facilities in the Post Offices in Punjab

2392. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facilities of National Savings Certificate/Kisan Vikas Patras and other saving schemes are available in all post offices in the country, particularly in the rural border areas of Punjab;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what concrete steps are being taken by Government to provide these facilities in each of the post offices in the rural border areas in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, the facilities of National Savings Certificate/ Kisan Vikas Patras and other saving schemes are available in all Head Post Offices and Departmental Post Offices in the country. These facilities also stand extended to Extra Departmental Post Offices, according to their demand and justification. Public Provident Fund Scheme is available in all Head Post Offices and selected Departmental Sub Post Offices. The facility of collection of Instrument and making payments for investment in all Schemes is available in all the Post Offices in the country. Similar is the position in all the Post Offices in rural border areas of Punjab State.

(b) and (c) In view of (a), does not arise.

Privatization of Long Distance Telecom Routes

2393. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified few long-distance telecom routes to be offered to private sector for setting up the facility on turn-key or build, lease, transfer scheme in the country:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Problem in Cash Payment of Telephone Bills

2394. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether payment of telephone bills in cash is posing severe problems to the telephone subscribers in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what steps the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited propose to take to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.